

*Hæmatopus palliatus*. AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER.—The only points on the Gulf coast where I have seen this species are Old Tampa Bay and the outer keys at Charlotte Harbor. At the latter point they were abundant in May, 1886, and were then mated and undoubtedly breeding. Mr. Atkins observed them rarely at Punta Rassa, and has not seen them at Key West.

(To be continued.)

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## RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS AT KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AND VICINITY, WITH A NOTE ON THE CAPTURE OF A DOVE (*GEOTRYGON MONTANA*) NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

*Stercorarius parasiticus*. PARASITIC JAEGER.—A single young bird of the year was secured by Mr. Hart at Marco, Florida, in the winter of 1884 and kindly sent to me for inspection by Mr. Atkins.

*Anas cyanoptera*. CINNAMON TEAL. — Under date of November 12, 1888, Mr. J. W. Atkins of Key West writes me: "Did I give you the record of a Cinnamon Teal taken here on November 1, 1887? I have the skin in my collection, and on October 24 (this year) I examined another of the species in the possession of a boy, who had just shot it in a pond near the town [Key West]."

*Melopelia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED DOVE. — Mr. J. W. Atkins secured a specimen of this species at Key West on November 14, 1888. He kindly sent it to me, and not being certain as to its identity, it being moulting, I forwarded it to Mr. J. A. Allen who compared and fully identified it. The bird is a male. Mr. Atkins writes me: "The bird was shot by a young man on this island and purchased of him by me. He reports that a flock of three of this kind of bird had been seen in the locality where the one in question was secured, the day before the capture." This being the first Florida record of the species, is of especial interest.

*Geotrygon montana*. RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE. — Mr. Atkins writes me on December 10, 1888: "I will send you shortly the head of a Key West Quail-dove (*Geotrygon martinica*). The Dove was shot here (Key West) by a boy on December 8, 1888, and was brought by him to the telegraph office to show me. Unfortunately I was absent. When I returned, one of the office boys told me of the "red dove." Going in search I found the Dove had been sold with some Carolina Doves to a man near by. I arrived at his place to find that it had been picked with the others, and only suc-

ceeded in obtaining the head and some wing and tail feathers." The remains I forwarded to Mr. J. A. Allen for comparison and identification, and he pronounces it an undoubted specimen of *Geotrygon montana*, the Ruddy Quail-dove, and the first recorded for North America. I wish here to express my indebtedness to Mr. Allen for this and many other similar kindnesses. I wish also to thank Mr. Atkins who has kindly presented the remains of the Dove in question to me. It is No. 3210 in my catalogue.

*Milvulus forficatus*. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—On December 10, 1888, Mr. J. W. Atkins saw five Scissor-tailed Flycatchers near the town of Key West, and secured two of them, a male and a female. He says "The birds seen to-day were quite shy and were taken at long range." This is, I believe, the second record for the island of Key West, and it can hardly be considered as accidental at that point.



## THE CLAPPER RAILS OF THE UNITED STATES AND WEST INDIES COMPARED WITH *RALLUS* *LONGIROSTRIS* OF SOUTH AMERICA.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

IN 'TABL. P. E.,' 1783, Boddaert described *Rallus longirostris*, based on 'Râle à long bec, de Cayenne,' Buff., 'Pl. Enl.,' 849.

In 1788 Gmelin described *Rallus crepitans* (S. N., Vol. I. pt. ii, p. 713) based on 'Clapper Rail, from New York' (Penn., Arct. Zool., II, 1781, No. 407).

In 1868 (Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 442) Messrs. Sclater and Salvin give an admirable 'Synopsis of the American Rails.' In this synopsis the New York Rail (*crepitans*) is not separated from the Cayenne Rail (*longirostris*) but is made its synonym.

In 1874 Mr. Lawrence described *Rallus crassirostris* (Ann. Lyc. N. Y., Vol. X, Feb., 1874). Mr. Lawrence sent the Bahia specimen, which differed so much from the *crepitans* of our Atlantic Coast, to England and says, "on returning it, Mr. Sclater wrote, 'is true *longirostris*, figured Pl. Enl. 849.'" Again Mr. Lawrence says, "I find it agrees with Buffon's plate (which is of reduced size) in the apparent color of the back, also in the form and stoutness of the bill"; and again, "my specimen differed so much from *crepitans*, as well as from all others, that I considered